

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 07751 301234Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 7751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TS

SUBJECT: NEW TUNISIAN MILITARY REQUIREMENT

1. SUMMARY: HEAD OF TUNISIAN MILITARY SECURITY DIRECTORATE STATED REQUIREMENT FOR RADIO MONITORING STATIONS TO COMMERCIAL VENDOR. THIS REQUIREMENT MAY ENTAIL EXPORT CLEARANCES AND DISCLOSURE DETERMINATION IF GOT PERSISTS IN PURSUING PURCHASE. ALSO SURFACED WAS A REQUIREMENT FOR JAMMING EQUIPMENT AND MICRO-EMITTERS. RECOMMEND WE NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THIS LATTER REQUIREMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL BALMA, CHIEF OF TUNISIAN MILITARY SECURITY DIRECTORATE MET WITH CHUSLOT AND MR. WARREN F. AUSTIN, DIRECTOR EUROPEAN OPERATIONS, E-SYSTEMS INC. AT THE MEETING, BG BALMA REQUESTED MR. AUSTIN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON AN INTEGRATED RADIO MONITORING SYSTEM. APPARENTLY GOT HAD PERFORMED SUPERFICIAL PRELIMINARY STUDY INDICATING A NECESSITY FOR FOUR FIXED MONITORING INSTALLATIONS CIMPLEMENTED BY FOUR MOBILE STATIONS. BALMA EXPANDED ON HIS EXPLANATION OF THE REQUIREMENT BY STATING THAT MOD ENVISIONED FOUR FIXED INSTALLATIONS CORRESPONSING TO ROUGHLY RECTANGULAR SHAPE OF TUNISIA. THE FOUR FIXED INSTALLATIONS WOULD MONITOR TRANSMISSIONS "ORIGINATING OUTSIDE TUNISIA" AND ROUGHLY FIX THE LOCATION OF THE TRANSMITTING STATION. THE MOBILE UNITS WOULD THEN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 07751 301234Z

BE DISPATCHED TO LOCATE MORE ACCURATELY THE ORIGINATOR. BG BALMA

EXPLAINED THE MILITARY JUSTIFICATION AS A CAPABILITY TO DETECT AND LOCATE TROOP BUILD-UPS THROUGH AN INCREASE OF RADIO TRAFFIC AS INVASION FORCES ASSEMBLED IN STAGING AREAS JUST ACROSS THE BORDERS. DURING THE DISCUSSION, BALMA ALSO ASKED ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF JAMMING EQUIPMENT AND MICRO-EMITTER (BUGS) EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS DETECTION DEVICES FOR THE LATTER. BALMA INDICATED THAT MOD BUDGET FOR CY 76 WOULD PERMIT \$100,000 TO \$200,000 PAYMENT FOR INITIAL STUDIES AND DOWN PAYMENT FOR FIXED AND MOBILE MONITORING STATIONS AND FORSAW NO DIFFICULTY WITH INCLUSION OF BALANCE OF PAYMENT IN CY 77 BUDGET.

3. MR. AUSTIN STATED THAT E-SYSTEMS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DESIGNING SUCH A MONITORING SYSTEM AND THAT THEYHAD CAPABILITY TO ACT AS PRIME CONTRACTOR, ALTHOUGH E-SYSTEMS DOES NOT PRODUCE THE EQUIPMENT. AUSTING, WHO IS RETIRED AF OFFICER, RECOGNIZED COMINT IMPLICATIONS OF JAMMING EQUIPMENT AND STATED E-SYSTEMS COULD NOT SATISFY EITHER THAT OR THE MICRO-EMITTER REQUIREMENT. HOWEVER, AUSTIN PROMISED TO REQUEST TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO DESIGN AND SUBMIT FOR GOT CONSIDERATION AN INTEGRATED RADIO TRANSMITTER MONITORING SYSTEM.

4. COMMENT: THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTED IS IN ADDITION TO THE WIDE RANGE SURVEILLANCE RECEIVER SYSTEM REQUESTED (CHUSLOT 121015Z JUNE 75). COUPLED WITH THE LETTER OF OFFER FOR THE RECEIVER SIGNED ON 4 NOV 75 IN AMOUNT OF \$64,214.15, THIS LATEST REQUEST INDICATES THAT GOT APPARENTLY IS SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT POSED BY AGGRESSIVE ELEMENTS TO BUDGET FOR EXPENSIVE ELECTRONIC MONITORING MEASURES. THIS MAY ALSO BE INDICATIVE OF AN INCREASED ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN THE PEACE-TIME SECURITY OF THE NATION. WHILE BALMA WAS CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE THAT EQUIPMENT IS DESIRED TO MONITOR TRANSMISSIONS ORIGINATION FROM OUTSIDE TUNISIA'S BORDERS, IT IS READILY RECOGNIZED THAT THE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE AS EFFECTIVE, IF NOT MORE EFFECTIVE, IN PIN-POINTING CLANDESTINE RADIOS TRANSMITTING FROM WITHIN TUNISIA. BALMA DID NOT INDICATE AN URGENCY FOR DELIVERY AND SEEMD SATISFIED WITH ESTIMATED 20 MONTH DELIVERY. WHILE MONITORING SYSTEM WOULD APPEAR TO BE LEGITIMATE MILITARY REQUIREMENT, WHICH US MIGHT HELP TO SATISFY, WE RECOMMEND WE STEER CLEAR OF ANY FURTHER REQUESTS FOR COMINT OR MICRO-EMITTER EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT EVEN THE REQUEST FOR MONITORING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 07751 301234Z

EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY. END COMMENT.

5. REQUEST ADVICE ON FEASIBILITY OF FURNISHING A RADIO MONITORING SYSTEM OF FOUR FIXED INSTALLATIONS AND FOUR MOBILE STATIONS THROUGH COMMERCIAL CONTRACT WITH US FIRM. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON LIKELIHOOD OF OBTAINING EXPORT LICENSE AND DISCLOSURE AUTHORITY.

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